

valve described with reference to FIGS. 9 to 11. However, the fill/spill valve 162 in the FIG. 8 embodiment and the three-position valve 262 in the embodiment of FIGS. 9 to 11 provide an additional degree of control in that their use permits rail pressure to be spilled back to the transfer pump 72. Simply incorporating the non return valve 362 and the rail control valve 62 in place of the rail control valve 62 and the fill/spill valve 162 in FIG. 9, or in place of the three-position valve of FIGS. 9 to 11, does not, however, provide an option to spill-end injection. As mentioned previously, it has been recognised that terminating injection using a spill end technique can be advantageous, as terminating injection by forcing the valve needle 55 to close against a high force due to pressurised fuel within the injection nozzle can result in an undesirable fuel spray formation. For this reason, in systems for which the combination of the rail control valve 62 and the non-return valve 362 is preferred (as in FIG. 12), it is desirable to include an additional high pressure shut off valve arrangement in the system.

[0140] In the embodiment shown in FIG. 12, the fuel injection system is therefore provided with control valve means in the form of a control valve 11 and a shut off valve arrangement 462 arranged within the high pressure fuel line 52. The control valve 11 is arranged to control fuel pressure within a control chamber 157 associated with the shut off valve 462, and thereby controls movement of the injector valve needle as described in further detail below. This configuration for controlling valve needle movement differs from the embodiments described previously, in that instead of providing a nozzle control valve 54 to control fuel pressure within an injector control chamber 57 at the back end of the valve needle, the control valve 11 acts to control fuel flow through the high pressure line 52 to the nozzle. In the embodiment of FIG. 12, the chamber 153 at the back end of the valve needle simply forms a chamber for housing the valve needle spring 53, and whether or not the valve needle is lifted from its seating to inject fuel is determined by opening and closing the shut off valve 462.

[0141] One practical embodiment of the high pressure shut off valve 462, and its configuration in relation to the control valve 11 and the injector valve needle 55, is shown in further detail in FIG. 13. The shut off valve 462 includes a shut off valve member 464 that is arranged within the high pressure supply line 52 to the delivery chamber 49 of the injector. The chamber 153 at the back end of the valve needle 55 houses a spring 53 which serves to urge the valve needle 55 into a closed position. It can be seen in FIG. 13 that the valve needle 55, the chamber 153 and the shut off valve member 464 are housed in adjacently mounted housing parts 106, 108, 110.

[0142] The shut off valve member 464 is movable within a stepped bore 121 formed in the housing part 110 under the control of the control valve 11. In the operating condition shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, the shut off valve member 464 is in a first position (a "closed" operating position) in which the shut off valve member 464 is engaged with a shut off valve seating 112 defined by a surface of the housing part 108 so that the flow of fuel through the high pressure supply line 52 to the injector delivery chamber 49 is prevented. The shut off valve member 464 is movable away from the shut off valve seating 112 into a second position (an "open"

operating position) in which the flow of fuel through the high pressure supply line 52 to the injector delivery chamber 49 is permitted.

[0143] The control valve 11 has a control valve member 111 which is movable between a first position (herein referred to as a closed position), in which a branch passage 152 from the high pressure supply line 52 communicates with a control chamber 157 at a back end of the shut off valve member 464 and communication between the control chamber 157 and a low pressure reservoir is closed, and a second position (herein referred to as an "open" position) in which the chamber 157 communicates with the low pressure reservoir through a drain passage 116 and communication between the branch passage 152 and the chamber 157 is broken. It cannot be fully appreciated from the scale of the drawing in FIG. 13, but the control valve member 111 is engaged with a first seating 118 when in its closed position to break communication between the chamber 157 and the drain passage 116 and is engaged with a second seating 120 when in its open position to open communication between the control chamber 157 and the drain passage 116 and to break communication between the branch passage 152 and the control chamber 157.

[0144] The shut off valve member 464 is movable between its open and closed positions in response to the hydraulic forces acting on surfaces of upper and lower end regions 466, 468 respectively of the valve member 464. The shut off valve member 464 is shaped to include upper and lower regions of different diameter. The upper end 466 has a first effective surface area exposed to fuel pressure within the control chamber 157. The lower end region 468 defines a surface area of annular form that is exposed to fuel pressure within the high pressure line 52 when the shut off valve member 464 is in its closed position, and when the shut off valve member is in its open position a second effective surface area is exposed to fuel pressure in the high pressure line 52. The first effective surface area of the upper end region 466 is greater than this second effective surface area of the lower end region 468. A gallery 122 defined in the region of the step in the bore 121 communicates continuously with the drain passage 116 to low pressure so as to prevent the occurrence of a hydraulic lock.

[0145] In use, the function of the shut off valve 462 is essentially the same in both the common-rail type and the EUJ-type modes of operation (i.e. at both the first and second injectable pressure levels). If the control valve member 111 is moved to its open position in which it is seated against the second seating 120, the control chamber 157 communicates with the low pressure reservoir and hence the shut off valve member 464 will be urged away from the shut off valve seating 112 into its open position due to high fuel pressure within the supply line 52 (whether at pressure P1 or P2) acting on the exposed annular surface area of its lower end 468. Additionally, as the shut off valve member 464 starts to open, the lowermost end surface will also experience building pressure in the downstream portion of the high pressure line 52 and so eventually the entire end surface of the shut off valve member 464 (i.e. the second effective surface area) is exposed to high fuel pressure in the line 52. When the control valve member 111 is moved into this open state, fuel at either the first or second injectable pressure level is therefore able to flow through the open shut off valve 262, into the supply line 52 to the injector delivery chamber 49.